

**RECORD OF PLAN CONFORMANCE AND
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION**

CX Log #: OR-014-CX-04-24 **Lease or Serial #:** N/A
Project Name: Surveyor Salvage CX
Location: T.38S., R.5E., Sections 25,26,35,36; T.39S., R.5E., Section 1, and T.39S., R.6E., Sections 5, 6, & 7 (See attached map)
County: Klamath County
BLM Office: Lakeview District, Klamath Falls Resource Area **Phone #:** 541-883-6916
Address: 2795 Anderson Ave., Bldg. 25, Klamath Falls, OR 97603-7891

Description of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is to:

- Harvest up to 250MBF of recent salvage in the Surveyor Mountain area that is adjacent to the contract boundary of the Surveyor Timber Sale and in the Miners Creek area (Sections 5,6,& 7 – See attached map). This salvage is the result of continuing outbreaks of the fir engraver beetle.
- The salvage will be negotiated with the Purchaser of the Surveyor Timber and be done concurrently with the salvage harvest that will occur with the Surveyor Timber Sale units.
- Harvesting will be done using primarily ground based operations on designated skid trails. The Purchaser will cable yard any areas over 35% to existing roads.
- Harvesting will take place during the 2004 operating season.
- All BMPs listed in the RMP will be complied with.
- Only salvage on Matrix lands will be harvested. No salvage will be removed from Riparian Reserves.
- Cull logs would be either decked on the landings and later transported and used for stream improvement work or left in the units to meet coarse woody debris requirements.

PLAN CONFORMANCE

The above project has been reviewed and found to be in conformance with one or more of the following BLM Plans:

- A. Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary (June 1995).
- a. Page 55 - *“Provide for salvage harvest of timber killed or damaged by events such as wildfire, windstorms, insects, or disease, consistent with management objectives for other resources.”*
 - b. Page E-4 - Salvage of Mortality Volume: *“All silvicultural systems provide for salvage under prescriptions designed to ensure that such actions meet the requirements of the allocation. Mortality in established stands results either from competition and self-thinning or from disturbance events such as fire, windstorms, or insect attacks. Mortality associated with competition is generally harvested in commercial thinnings or is prevented through density management and species selection practices. Mortality of entire stands or of scattered trees that results from disturbance would be harvested in salvage operations. Only mortality above the level needed to meet snag retention other habitat requirements and provide desired levels of coarse woody debris would be harvested.”*

IDENTIFICATION OF EXCLUSION CATEGORY

The proposed action has been identified as a categorical exclusion under **Bureau of Land Management Categorical Exclusions (516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4), C – Forestry (2):**

“Sale and removal of individual trees or small groups of trees which are dead, diseased, injured, or which constitute safety hazard, and where access for the removal requires no more than maintenance to existing roads.”

COMPLIANCE WITH THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further analysis or documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM2, Appendix 1, 1.12 if it does not meet any of the following Exceptions (listed in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2; IM No. OR-2002-130).

Will the proposed action meet the following Exceptions?

<u>Exception</u>	<u>Yes</u> <u>No</u>
1. Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety?	() (X)
2. Have adverse effects on such unique geographic characteristics or features, or on special designation areas such as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the National Register of Natural Landmarks. This also includes significant caves, ACECs, National Monuments, WSAs, RNAs.	() (X)
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects (40 CFR 1508.14)?	() (X)
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks?	() (X)
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	() (X)
6. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but significant cumulative environmental effects? This includes connected actions on private lands (40 CFR 1508.7 and 1508.25(a)).	() (X)
7. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places? This includes Native American religious or cultural sites, archaeological sites, or historic properties.	() (X)
8. Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed as Federally Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated critical habitat for these species? This includes impacts on BLM-designated sensitive species or their habitat. When a Federally listed species or its habitat is encountered, a Biological Evaluation (BE) shall document the effect on the species. The responsible official may proceed with the proposed action without preparing a NEPA document when the BE demonstrates either 1) a “no effect” determination or 2) a “may effect, not likely to adversely effect” determination.	() (X)
9. Fail to comply with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (water resource development projects only)?	() (X)
10. Violate a Federal, State, Local, or Tribal law, regulation or policy imposed for the protection of the environment, where non-Federal requirements are consistent with Federal requirements?	() (X)
11. Involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA	() (X)

section 102(2)(E)) not already decided in an approved land use plan?	
12. Have a disproportionate significant adverse impacts on low income or minority populations; Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice)?	() (X)
13. Restrict access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites; Executive Order 13007 (Indian Sacred Sites)?	() (X)
14. Have significant adverse effect on Indian Trust Resources?	() (X)
15. Contribute to the introduction, existence, or spread of: Federally listed noxious weeds (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act); or invasive non-native species; Executive Order 13112 (Invasive Species)?	() (X)
16. Have a direct or indirect adverse impact on energy development, production, supply, and/or distribution; Executive Order 13212 (Actions to Expedite Energy-Related Projects)?	() (X)

The proposed action would not create adverse environmental effects or meet any of the above exceptions.

DOCUMENTATION OF RECOMMENDED MITIGATION

For any item marked under "Yes", identify the mitigating measures proposed. If no mitigating measures are identified that can prevent the potential adverse impacts, the conditions for a categorical exclusion cannot be met.

Item No.	Can Be Mitigated	Cannot Be Mitigated	Mitigation Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No exceptions were marked "Yes". Below is a list of Project Design Features that are considered Best Management Practices listed in Appendix D of the KFRA RMP that will minimize impacts of the proposed action. 			

Project Design Features / Best Management Practices to minimize disturbance of the Proposed Action:

Cultural Resources

- The proposed harvest area has been surveyed and no cultural sites have been identified.

Special Status Plants

- All proposed harvest areas have been surveyed for special status plants. All identified special status plant sites will be protected.

Riparian Reserves –

- Standard Riparian Reserve Widths described in Appendix D-8, Table D-1 will be implemented.

Wildlife

- Northern Spotted Owls – Some of the salvage is located in Section 6 near the Miners Creek Owl Site. As stated in the RMP page 38, no cutting or yarding operations will occur from March 1 to September 30th within ¼ mile of an active nest site.
- Bald Eagles – No eagle nest sites within the proposed salvage harvest areas.
- Great Grey Owls – The area has been surveyed. No great grey owl nest sites are within the proposed salvage harvest area.
- Northern Goshawk – No activity will occur within ¼ mile of an active goshawk nest sites.
- Special status mollusks, *Pristoloma arcticum*, *crateris hesparium*, and *Deroceras hesparium* have

been surveyed for. No sites were found in the project area.

Snags

At least 1.9 snags / acre across the landscape within every harvest unit will be retained.

Coarse Woody Debris

Cull logs would be either decked on the landings and later transported and used for stream improvement work or left in the units to meet coarse woody debris requirements. Length of logs needed for the stream improvement work is 35 feet or longer.

Soil Protection Measures – The following Best Management Practices (BMPs) are used to reduce soil impacts:

- Harvest operations will occur when the soil moisture at a six (6) inch depth is 20% or less.
- Skid trails would be limited to 12% of the area.
- Detrimental soil disturbance would be limited to 20% of the area. Detrimental soil disturbance in excess of this amount would be mitigated.
- Slash would be placed on skid trails and other disturbed areas to minimize erosion and impede surface water runoff.

Noxious Weed Control

- All harvesting equipment and associated vehicles would be washed off prior to entering the BLM lands to prevent introduction or spread of noxious weeds. All roads and landing locations would be surveyed for noxious weeds prior to harvest operations. Landing would be relocated to suitable weed free areas if necessary. A map of concentrated noxious weed sites is attached.

Remarks:

The KFRA continues to implement post treatment monitoring on 20% of the timber sales as required in the RMP and to assess impacts of treatments. The result of this monitoring is summarized in the Annual Program Summary. The KFRA has implemented a number of salvage sales since the signing of the RMP in June of 1994. Monitoring of previous salvage sales indicates that when the above mitigation measures are implemented, adverse effects on the environment are minimized. One of the objectives of this proposed action is to allow for quick recovery of the material before wood deterioration begins.

SURVEYS AND CONSULTATION

Surveys and/or consultation may be needed for special status plants and animals, for cultural resources, and other resources as necessary: (Initial and Date appropriate fields)


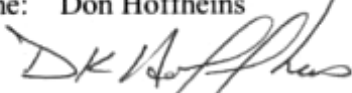
<u>Surveys:</u>	1) are completed	2) will be completed	3) are not needed
Special Status Plants	<u>JO 8/2/04</u>	_____	_____
Special Status Animals	<u>SM 8/5/04</u>	_____	_____
Cultural Resources	<u>TC 8/3/04</u>	_____	_____
Other Surveys	_____	_____	_____
SS Animal Consultation	<u>SM 8/3/04</u>	_____	_____
Botanical Consultation	_____	_____	<u>JO 8/2/04</u>
Cultural Consultation	_____	<u>TC 8/3/04</u>	_____

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS and CX DETERMINATION

Based on the available information and a review by the interdisciplinary team, it is my determination that the proposed action does not constitute a significant impact affecting the quality of the human environment greater than those addressed in the:

- Final - Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan and EIS (June 1994).
- Upper Spencer Creek EA (June 2003).

The proposed action would not create adverse environmental impacts or require the preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS). The proposed action has been reviewed against the criteria for an Exception to a categorical exclusion (listed above) as identified in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, and does not meet any Exception. The application of this categorical exclusion is appropriate, as there are no extra ordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action is, therefore, categorically excluded from additional NEPA documentation.

Prepared By: (Signature)	Name: Mike Bechdolt 	Title: Timber Manager	Date: 8/2/04
Approved By: (Signature)	Name: Don Hoffheins 	Title: Acting Resource Area Manager	Date: 8/2/04

Surveyor Salvage Area

